

**Draft Summary of the Plenary Group Meeting
Oroville Facilities Relicensing (FERC Project No. 2100)
February 28, 2001**

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) hosted the Plenary Group meeting on February 28, 2001 in Oroville.

A summary of the discussion, decisions made, and action items is provided below. This summary is not intended to be a transcript, analysis of the meeting, or to indicate agreement or disagreement with any of the items summarized, except where expressly stated. The intent is to present a summary of the discussion for information purposes for interested parties who could not attend the meeting.

Introduction

Attendees were welcomed to the Plenary Group meeting. The Plenary Group Meeting agenda and list of meeting attendees and their affiliations are appended to this summary as Attachments 1 and 2, respectively. Flip chart notes are included as Attachment 3.

DWR staff provided the following updates regarding relicensing activities. The kick-off meetings for the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group and the Cultural Resources Work Group will be held on March 13 and 27, respectively. Information for all relicensing meetings is posted on the Oroville Facilities Relicensing web site.

DWR staff updated Plenary Group participants by stating there was no additional information regarding funding for NGO participation in the relicensing process.

Action Items – January 18, 2001 Plenary Group Meeting

The Facilitator reviewed the status of action items from the January 18, 2001 Plenary Group meeting as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Action Item #P11: | Task Force will revise the Communications Protocol and Group Structure Documents and report back to the Plenary Group for discussion. |
| Status: | A report on Task Force activities is included in this meeting. |
| Action Item #P12: | Share information from other relicensing processes regarding decision-making models. |
| Status: | On-going. Several items have been submitted for consideration. Plenary Group participants agreed to discuss at a later meeting. |
| Action Item #P13: | Present detailed schedule defining critical paths and linkages between Plenary Group and Work Group activities. |
| Status: | A discussion of the schedule is included in this meeting. |
| Action Item #P14: | Develop definition of "Socioeconomics" as it applies to the relicensing process. |
| Status: | Jim Fargo, a FERC representative, explained that the level of economic study depends on the operational changes expected under the new license. The Plenary Group will determine the scope of the socioeconomic study needed during the relicensing process. The Plenary Group agreed that this item would require future discussion at the Plenary level and perhaps at the Recreation and Socioeconomic Work Group level as well. |
| Action Item #P15: | Present overview of facilities operation. |
| Status: | A facilities operations overview is included in this meeting. |
| Action Item #P16: | Clarify Communications Protocol for detail regarding process for notification of Work Group meetings and posting meeting agendas 15 days in advance of a meeting. |
| Status: | Done – On going. |

Action Item #P17: Coordinate Land Use Work Group activities with local agencies (County Fire, City Police, County Sheriff, etc.)
Status: Local agencies have been invited to participate in the Work Group.
Action Item #P18: Include a discussion of the IIP at the next Plenary Group meeting.
Status: A discussion of the IIP is included in this meeting.

- The Plenary Group requested that DWR send e-mail notices to participants when new items have been posted on the relicensing web site. A request was made for DWR to post documents in a format other than 'read only' so participants would have the ability to save files on their systems.

Work Group Updates

Recreation and Socioeconomics Work Group

DWR staff reviewed both the February 22, 2001 Recreation and Socioeconomics Work Group meeting and the Interim Projects Task Force meetings. Work Group meeting summaries are available on the relicensing web site.

- The Plenary Group discussed its role in evaluating and approving interim projects identified by the Interim Projects Task Force. Some participants felt some interim projects may be approved as a sign of improving relations between DWR and local residents. The consulting team reminded the group to concentrate on interim projects that have a nexus to the Oroville Facilities and additional information was required for many of the projects under consideration. The Interim Projects Task Force will meet at least two more times before making recommendations to the Recreation and Socioeconomics Work Group. The Plenary Group will receive the final list of proposed interim projects once the Recreation and Socioeconomics Work Group reviews and acts on the Interim Project Task Force's recommendations.
- The Plenary Group requested DWR to post the Criteria used to screen the list of proposed interim projects on the relicensing web site.

Environmental Work Group

The consulting team reviewed the February 27, 2001 Environmental Work Group meeting. The meeting summary is available on the relicensing web site.

Land Use Work Group

Participants were reminded that the kick-off meeting for the Land Use, Land Management, and Aesthetics Work Group is scheduled on March 13, 2001.

Cultural Resources Work Group

Participants were reminded that the kick-off meeting for the Cultural Resources Work Group is scheduled on March 27, 2001. Plenary Group participants were also told DWR received approval from FERC to initiate Section 106 consultations with the Indian Tribes pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act.

Process Protocols Task Force Update

Wayne Dyok of the consulting team updated the Plenary Group on the progress of the Process Protocols Task Force. He mentioned that the Task Force held three telephone conference call meetings and made significant progress in incorporating suggested

revisions into the proposed Process Protocols. He indicated that the Task Force developed a clear goal statement for the relicensing process, defined the circumstances under which informal and formal communications were needed and the role of the consulting team. He added that the proposed Process Protocols were revised to address confidentiality agreements and dispute resolution. The Task Force will prepare a revised set of the proposed Process Protocols for consideration at the next Plenary Group meeting.

Oroville Facility Operations

John Leahigh of DWR provided the Plenary Group with an overview of Oroville Facilities operations. A detailed description of project operations can be found in Section 3.0 of the IIP.

John described Lake Oroville as a key component of the State Water Project (SWP) and that it was built primarily for water supply and flood control purposes. Other benefits of the project include recreation, environmental and power generation. The SWP captures and stores water during the winter and spring in the north when and where it is plentiful and moves it to the south in the summer. John described the control and release of water from the SWP in response to flood control, environmental regulations, power generation, and water supply criteria. He explained how winter and spring rain and snowmelt provide water to the lake and why the current water level is so low. He explained how water is moved through the system (often more than once) to generate power. He also described factors that may impact reservoir levels in the future such as increased demand on SWP water, changes in diversions to the Feather River Service Area, environmental needs and changes in flood control protocols. It was emphasized that hydrology (rainfall and snowmelt) plays the biggest role in determining lake levels at any given time and that average or above average rainfall years are more than adequate to refill the lake.

John emphasized that releases from Oroville in response to Bay-Delta environmental considerations are part of a coordinated effort: Water that flows through the Delta is released from Oroville, Folsom, and Shasta dams. He also explained that water released from Oroville is stored in other SWP facilities (banked) to meet dry year and emergency demands. One participant asked for clarification on the economics of the Oroville Facilities; another participant suggested that other operational information is available and could be presented to the group at a future date.

Initial Information Package – Scoping Issues

The Work Groups are tasked with developing a series of issue statements for inclusion in the Scoping Document. The Scoping Document, required by FERC and NEPA, identifies issues associated with relicensing the Oroville Facilities and guides the development of studies necessary to address various issues, such as recreation, aquatic and terrestrial habitat, and operations and engineering, etc.

In developing the Scoping Document, certain baseline information from the IIP will be utilized. Wayne Dyok of the consulting team stressed that it was important that the IIP be factually correct, however the IIP would not be rewritten. Instead errata sheets amending information in the IIP would be developed and distributed to all participants. The Plenary Group agreed that comments on the IIP should be provided to DWR within 30 days of

receipt of the IIP. This allows time for those Work Groups that have not yet met to adequately review and comment on the document.

Wayne provided a draft schedule outlining critical paths to developing the Scoping Document and other milestones and how they relate to Plenary Group meetings for the next year. The draft schedule reflected some changes resulting from discussions with the Environmental Work Group participants at their latest meeting. Wayne reminded the Plenary Group that field studies were anticipated to begin in early 2002, and the draft schedule would help the Work Groups and the Plenary Group meet that target date. The draft schedule, including important milestones for developing the Scoping Document, Study Plan development, and critical Work Group and Plenary Group decision points, is appended to this summary as Attachment 4.

- The Plenary Group discussed the draft schedule and expressed concerns regarding the development of scoping statements and whether Work Groups that have not met would be able to meet the schedule deadlines. There was agreement that the scheduled release of the Scoping Document should be delayed to accommodate those Work Groups.
- The Plenary Group discussed several options for reviewing the draft Scoping Document and agreed their preference was to see the entire document, including draft issues statements, rather than reviewing parts of the document as they become available.
- One participant asked if studies that are time sensitive could be authorized in advance of completion of the Scoping Document. The Plenary Group agreed to discuss this issue at their next meeting.
- Plenary Group participants requested to review examples of existing Scoping Documents issued in other relicensing proceedings. Example Scoping Documents issued by Portland General Electric are appended to this summary as [Attachment 5](#) and [Attachment 6](#).

Next Meeting

The Plenary Group agreed to meet on:

Date: Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Time: 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Location: To be determined

Agreements Made

1. The Plenary Group agreed to extend the length of time to develop issues statements to accommodate Work Groups that have not met.
2. The Plenary Group agreed to meet again on March 28, 2001 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (location to be announced).

Action Items

The following list of action items identified by the Plenary Group includes a description of the action, the participant responsible for the action, and item status.

Action Item #P19: Discuss USFWS scoping handout for potential agenda item.

Responsible: DWR/USFWS

Due Date: March 28, 2001

Action Item #P20: Discussion on the economics of the Oroville Facilities.

Responsible: DWR Staff

Due Date: March 28, 2001

Action Item #P21: Provide participants with e-mail notification when new items are placed on the relicensing web site.

Responsible: DWR Staff

Due Date: March 28, 2001

Action Item #P22: Check on document formatting and download capabilities on relicensing web site.

Responsible: Consulting Team

Due Date: March 28, 2001

Action Item #P23: Distribute Interim Projects Task Force selection Criteria to the Plenary Group and post on relicensing web site.

Responsible: DWR Staff

Due Date: March 28, 2001

**Plenary Group Meeting Agenda
Oroville Facilities Relicensing (FERC Project No. 2100)
February 22, 2001**

Agenda

Desired Outcomes

- *Updates on Relicensing Activities, Work Groups, and Task Force*
- *Acceptance of Task Force Recommendations*
- *Understanding of Basic Oroville Facilities Recommendations*
- *Further Development of Issues*
- *Discussion of Critical Path Schedule and Meeting Scheduling*
- *Next Steps for Plenary Group*

- 1. Welcome, Introductions, Update on Relicensing Activities, and Meeting Objectives**
- 2. January 18, 2001 Meeting Summary and Action Items**
- 3. Work Group Updates**
 - **Recreation and Socioeconomics**
 - **Environmental**
 - **Land Use, Land Management, and Aesthetics**
 - **Engineering and Operations**
 - **Cultural Resources**
- 4. Process Protocols Task Force Update**
- 5. Understanding Basic Oroville Facilities Operation**
- 6. IIP – Scoping Issues**
- 7. Discussion of Critical Path Schedule and Meeting Schedule**
- 8. Action Items and Next Steps**

**Plenary Group Meeting Attendees
Oroville Facilities Relicensing (FERC Project No. 2100)**

Adrian Smith	Resident
Andy Atkinson	California Department of Fish & Game / Oroville Wildlife Management
Charles L. Miller	City of Oroville Department of Parks & Trees
Craig T. Jones	State Water Contractors
D.C. Jones	Resident
David Whitewolf	Cherokee Tribal Council/NANRC111
Diana Mahmud	MWD
Dick Dunkel	Lake Oroville Fish Enhancement Committee
Don Marquez	KCWA
Don Waltz	Department of Boating and Waterways
Douglas Poppelreiter	Lake Oroville Fish Enhancement Committee
Ed Craddock	Butte County
Floyd Higgins	Oroville Model Airplane Club
Frances Kelley	Butter County Citizens for Fair Government
Frank Cotton	Santa Clara Valley Water District
Gary Taylor	US Fish & Wildlife Service
Harry Williamson	National Park Service
Jerome Caston	USFS
Jim Fargo	FERC
John Rubin	Santa Clara Valley Water District
Ken Kulse	MWD
Leslie Steidl	Resident
Lorraine Frazier	Mooretown Rancheria
Mark Hennelly	California Waterfowl Association
Michael Pierce	ORAC – Butte County Alternate
Mike Kelley	Butte County Tax Payers Association
Mike Meinz	Department of Fish and Game
Mike Taylor	USFS
Mike Vroomn	Resident on Feather River
Nan Nalder	ACRES/State Water Contractors
Patrick Porgans	Porgans and Associates
Peter Maki	Feather River Nature Center
Ray Gannett	Funtime Fulltime Inc., dba Bidwell Marina
Rick Ramirez	DWR
Ron Corso	Environmental Team
Ron Davis	Oroville Pageant Riders
Ruben Dura	City of Oroville
Scott Lawrence	Feather River Recreation and Parks Department
Steve Nachtman	Harza/EDAW
Steve Rothert	American Rivers
Vince Wong	Zone 7 Water Agency
Wade Hough	Butte Sailing Club, ORAC
Wayne Dyok	Harza/EDAW
Ward Tabor	Department of Water Resources

Notes from Flip Charts Oroville Facilities Relicensing (FERC Project No. 2100)

The following list was recorded on flip charts during the Plenary Group Meeting. The flip chart listing is not intended to be a transcript or analysis of the meeting or to indicate agreement or disagreement with the items listed; the intent is to provide a summary for informational purposes for interested parties who could not attend the meeting.

- Criteria should focus on projects within project boundary and, what effect does project have?
- Report from LU/LM/A Work Group on 'subgroup' issue – reps from other Work Groups on LU Work Group
- BO evaluate upstream impacts associated with increased releases (G. Taylor – USFWS)
- Alternate information related to project operations
- Contact known participants for future meetings to distribute IIP copies prior to meeting kick-off
- Provide group with web sites that include Scoping Documents on other projects or download examples and make available by request from participants
- Potential to post SD on Department of Water Resources' web site
- Supply issues sections separate from SD
- Department of Water Resources will provide sample Scoping Document (Rocky Reach?)
- Revise schedule based on comments
- Communications Protocol distribution and acknowledge receipt and buy off
- Can do early start studies -- Discuss process to do that
- Potential to do some studies now (at low lake levels) may not have opportunity again
- Department of Water Resources toll-free #: 1-866-820-8198
- E-mail: orovillep2100@water.ca.gov

Draft Scoping Document Options:

- 1) Scoping Document with draft issues
- 2) S.D. with separate draft issues
- 3) Wait until Work Group recommendations are finalized to get entire package

Action Items

- Discuss Scope handout (USFWS) at next meeting.
- Economics of the project
- Notification via e-mail for summaries (when available)
- Check on PDF format for downloading
- Distribute/post Interim Projects Task Force selection criteria

Attachment 4



